

# THERE'S A RIGHT TOY FOR EVERY TOT

## EVERY CHILD HAS RIGHT TO VOICE IN PICKING TOYS

Teacher Gives Timely Suggestions on Selection of Presents Best Suited for Children of Every Age.

BY ELIZA CURTIS.

Every child has a right to at least a few good toys. They are an essential to child health as food, because they build up and sustain the mind as food does the body.

While it has frequently been demonstrated that parents will do without necessities rather than deprive the children of toys, it is also a fact that the proper selection of toys presents a problem to mothers whether the gifts be intended for birthdays, Christmas or for other special days.

A summary of answers to a questionnaire on toys recently sent to persons who should know—including kindergarten teachers, managers of day nurseries and children's hospitals, teachers and mothers provides some interesting and helpful suggestions which may help to make the proper selection of toys easier for mothers and help to provide children of all ages and both sexes with toys and playthings which they will enjoy more than those selected at haphazard and will also prove of greater benefit to them in character building and in the development of possible latent physical and mental possibilities.

### A Toy for Every Age.

The consensus of opinion indicates that "manipulation" toys are best for children between the ages of 2 and 4; "dramatic" playthings best between 4 and 6; and "construction" playthings between the ages of 6 and 8, while from 8 years up, playthings such as juvenile wireless outfits, games or toys that teach the simpler branches of the exact sciences and those which exercise and train the hands and brain in a somewhat advanced way are best.

No set rule can be followed in the proper selection of toys and playthings. Careful study should be given the age, sex, physical and mental strength of the child; its trend in character development and its aptitudes. Attention should be given as to what the toy or plaything can do beneficially for the child beyond mere amusement; to what the child can do with the toy and to the channel of thought or of action into which the toy selected will lead the child because the influence of the toys and playthings of children is a matter of very serious consideration to the mother and also in the proper development of the child.

Do not give the child any toy which on first thought only may appeal to you as the toy which might please it or which you think might "do." Let the child help you in your selection—if not personally, at least by suggestion. The toy should interest the child, appeal to its imagination and sense of beauty, and to its good taste and love of originality.

Teach the child to love and care for its toy, whether it be the little girl's pet doll or the small boy's tool chest. Simple, durable toys of which there is an almost endless variety—usually find the greatest favor with children of all ages.

If you do not think that care is not necessary in the selection of toys, just look in the spare room or almost anywhere in the house, and notice the toys discarded by the children simply because they are not the right toys for the right children. Then think of the money that is wasted every year in the purchase of the wrong type of toys, and add to that a computation of the fun and benefits lost by the children through the same cause, and you have an unanswerable argument for careful selection.

### Tots Like Simple Toys.

A little tot from one to two enjoys little games that can be played with

fingers and simple toys such as dolls, animals and balls made of rubber, wood, knitted or rag materials and plain blocks—all simple enough for its enjoyment.

From two to three a child's perceptive powers have been broadened and he should be given things about animals and birds, well and brightly illustrated; a sand table or pile in which he will merely dig and fill and refill his pail without attempting to build anything; little garden implements; dolls, larger blocks than he had at one year; a wheelbarrow or wagon much in miniature, simple pieces of furniture, stuffed animals and other toys of a like kind that are easy to handle.

As the child's eye and hands become more capable of definite aims—between 2 and 5 years of age—the toys used in a well conducted kindergarten will interest the youngster immensely, and provide it not only with amusement, but with the first tangible instruments of real educational advancement.

An idea of sequence, color, harmony and repetition is given by stringing wooden beads of various colors; some conception of beauty, of creative imitation, and an association of ideas is imparted in this age through the mediums of transparent slates upon which the child may trace flowers, dogs, vegetables and houses, or by means of blackboard and chalk, while a pair of blunt scissors and pieces of colored paper will help develop a kind of initiative as the child attempts to cut out pictures similar to the ones he has traced, or his own idea of an animal or human figure. A series of small wheels, toy balls, doll house furniture, household implements in miniature and sand toys suit this age.

### Circus Toys Popular.

Between 4 and 5 children enjoy imitating life—they begin to feel their desire and their ability to do to some extent at least what their elders do. A circus with its many jointed wooden characters—clowns, acrobats, animals and fixtures will entertain and instruct a child for hours at a stretch. Such playthings are properly called "dramatic playthings," in that the children are inclined to make the characters "act out" various games or "stunts," and they attribute to their dramatic playthings at this age a certain actual personality dictated by the child's interpretation of right and wrong. There is the bad doll and the good doll, and so on, and it is at this age that parents should be particularly careful in their guidance of the child's character development, because it means much.

The "construction" period of child play comes between the ages of 5 and 8, when they want to build something definite with their hands rather than sit still and watch a mechanical toy. At an earlier age the child has absorbed with wonder the idea that a toy when wound up or started in operation in some way, will perform wonderful things, but the time has now come when the child wants to actually cause the motion itself. Girls will want dolls of several kinds, doll houses and their furnishings, and all the accessories pertaining to dolls which will help them in the making and washing and ironing of doll dresses. Both boys and girls at this age will enjoy paint boxes with good brushes, modeling clay or soft putty to enable them to create things "out of their heads." Boys will find a tool chest the source of endless fun, as well as wooden and metal structural toys, while a tent or Indian wigwam will provide all kinds of fun for both the boys and girls.

### Athletic Goods Liked.

When a youngster reaches the childishly mature age of 8 or 10, and from that age to 16, he or she has already developed a pretty clear idea of his or her own skill in one line or another, and wants something more advanced. Athletic toys are nowadays acceptable to both boys and girls. They want a tricycle or a bicycle, good roller skates, good baseball bats, balls and gloves, tennis racket that is not merely a toy imitation of the real thing, fishing and camping outfits, a croquet set, a bid toy automobile, a movie outfit or magic lantern, electrical apparatus and the dozen and one scientific toys that teach most interestingly the rudiments of exact sciences, while affording entertainment and a possibility

of the development of skill, and the more intricate games and puzzles as well as books on sound subjects well and faithfully illustrated with pictures or diagrams.

It is impossible to enumerate all of the toys that fit into all of the ages of childhood, but the foregoing should prove suggestive and it should always be remembered that, because all toys from the earliest have always been national to their own country, only American toys can properly reflect and teach the true spirit of Americanism and keep abreast of American national development.

### FORTUNE LEFT ON TABLE RETURNED TO OWNER

PORTLAND, Me., Nov. 23. (By International News Service.)—A pile of envelopes, which on investigation proved to contain \$1,500,000 worth of securities, were found lying on a table in the booth of a local bank by Clinton T. Sweet, a Portland business man. On investigation it was learned that the securities were the property of Ammi Whitney, a wealthy resident of this city, and that he had left them in the booth after examining the contents of his safe deposit vault. They were returned to the owner.

## GLORIA SWANSON IS REAL MOTHER

Noted Screen Star Turns Away From Shower of Publicity for Her Baby.

(By International News Service.)—LOS ANGELES, Cal., Nov. 23.—This city, motion picture capital of the world, has an uncrowned queen, who from present appearances will never wear the diadem of popularity which a host of admirers would have thrust upon her.

The object of these unusual honors, who is as jealously guarded as was the famous hundred-million-dollar McLean baby, is just a wee mite of a girl. Of course she has nothing to say about coronations, but her mother has—so thereby hangs a tale.

When Mrs. Herbert K. Somborn, known to millions of "movie" fans as Gloria Swanson, became a mother recently a legion of movie picture stars, near stars, actors, supernu-

meraries, property men, press agents and mere managers who have at some time been associated with her joined in various little celebrations. They decided that Gloria Swanson Somborn, heiress to the fame of her talented mother, should be appropriately honored. But they met with an unexpected move on the part of the parent when she was told of the shower of publicity that awaited the newcomer.

"My baby belongs to me, not to 'movie' land," said Mrs. Somborn. "And she will not be the honored guest at parties, or posed for a battery of cameramen, or carted around by press agents to satisfy the curiosity of an admiring public."

"I may appear selfish, but I want my baby all to myself and husband. We are so happy these days that I think of nothing but what she means to us. Maybe I am old-fashioned—I hope I am—for a home and a motion picture career are two different things. While I may belong to a world of make-believe, my little Gloria belongs only to her parents."

Mrs. Somborn made an enviable reputation with the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation, following a varied experience with other film concerns, considerable of which was in the comedy field.

She expects to be back with the Famous Players-Lasky Corporation

about Jan. 1, but insists that her baby will claim every spare minute of her leisure time. Under a new long-term contract she is to be featured in a new De Mille series.

Mrs. Somborn's husband is also interested in motion pictures, his line being that of a promoting magnate.

## SPYING IS DANGEROUS FOR GERMAN SUBJECTS

BERLIN, Nov. 23. (By International News Service.)—Although allied officers may go where they please in Germany and in a high-handed way demand information in furtherance of the fulfillment of the Versailles treaty, it's a thankless and dangerous undertaking for German citizens to engage in the spy business for the entente.

The Munich police have arrested three young mechanics ranging between 19 and 31 years of age on the charge of high treason. The youths are accused of having attempted to sell information to the entente. One of the defendants declared at a preliminary hearing that he had been informed that for information of the type he was peddling the allied missions had been known to pay as much as 500,000 marks, and he didn't know why he shouldn't also receive some of the easy money.

## DRY FORCES BUSY WINNING MEXICO

Anti-Alcohol Society Formed by Women in Mexico City.

BY LOUIS P. KIRBY.  
(International News Service Staff Correspondent.)

MEXICO CITY, Mex., Nov. 23.—Prohibitionists, whose cause has taken a fearful slump in Mexico, are to receive the help of prominent women in Mexico. An anti-alcohol society has been formed by the women here, and plans are on foot for the organization of similar societies in various parts of the country. A few weeks ago it looked as though prohibition had gained a strong foothold in Mexico. Then it was discovered that prohibition did not mix well with Mexican politics. When it was decided to close the cantinas and other drinking places there was approval in "upper circles," where there was conviction

that there should be less drinking among the peons. Moralists talked of the disappearance from the land of the Teletes, in ancient days, because of the havoc wrought by pulque. But when the cantinas were ordered to close their doors from Saturday at noon until the following Monday morning each week, the restaurants and hotels were forbidden to sell liquors during the same weekly "dry" period. This brought protest from "upper circles," the members of which rarely or never entered cantinas, but profoundly enjoyed their bottle of wine or cognac in more refined surroundings.

The government would not venture to favor the wealthy by modifying the "dry" regulations. It might have meant revolution if the cantinas had been kept closed on week-ends and the restaurants and hotels had been permitted to remain "wet."

The "dry" regulations were impartially enforced, as far as anything can be enforced impartially in Mexico, but the "wet" pressure was so strong that there was a sudden return to the old system, and all drinking places remain open now throughout the week.

In love making as in complexions and jewels, the real thing, dearie, never appears quite as brilliant and dazzling as the imitation.



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